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## Special Advertisements.

ly have their origin in the minds of those whose interests blind them to the fatal objections apparent to every one else. In the Illawarra and Hunter River districts colliery proprietors have constructed their own private lines to connect with the Government lines of railway. In this case if there were room for the opening up of further collieries on the mountain slopes which overlook the beautiful little district of Jamberoo, the construction of a railway would not be allowed to stand in the way. At the present time there are quite sufficient

series opened up to supply all the possible requirements of the country. The Government made, and a Government railway line was constructed, and the Government offered a large remuneration to the capitalists. But the Government did not offer a sufficient inducement for capitalists to open up other coal properties in the district. At any rate, no Government would be warranted in undertaking the cost of construction on the mere chance of the working of new coal mines. The refusal to sanction this line is all the more reasonable because, for any time during the last fifteen years, the ownership of the coal property by influential names has

The continued mystery of the discolouration of the waters of the harbour exhibited

in a character of scientific helplessness and bewilderment that hardly redounds to our credit. Much light has been thrown on the subject, but the obscurity surrounding it still seems as dense as the opaqueness of the water itself. The report obtained by the Commissioners of Fisheries, and which was published in our yesterday's issue, is the latest to hand, and it touches the phenomenon on another side—their view of its actual results on the living things that have been brought in contact with or tried to absorb it.

matter—vegetable or animal—as it may be—by which the water is discoloured. These results have been fatal in a high degree. From Parramatta to Watson Bay the mussels, oysters, and other bivalves are all dead. The limpets and periwinkles are in the same state, and *post-mortem* examination has shown the “stomachs” of the oysters and mussels gorged with this peridinium, which is the latest name affixed to the vegetable or animal creature that has turned the water of Port Jackson into a “red sea.” Kelp, sea-dah, and a variety of other

...as living things, which usually enjoy  
itality of a kind, have lost what they had of  
it, and are lifeless as the mussels; and  
together, excepting for the larger class  
creatures inhabiting the water—many  
of these are sick, we are told—our  
harbour has partaken largely of the  
character of a "dead sea." This may  
not be a serious thing, but it is  
various one, and the desire  
the public will be greater than  
ever to know what it all means.  
The report in question does not satisfy

WITTENBERGER, who has conducted the inquiry for the Commissioners, suggests that the bivalves may have lost their breathing apparatus clogged by the peridinia, or that the features may have over-fed on peridinin and become sick of the surfeit; and although an oyster troubled with indigestion could be a phenomenon of itself, the hypothesis is hardly a satisfactory solution of the mystery. So far as the latest report goes, peridinia seem good eatings for oyster fish; and "there are no reasons

The Minister for Works, some little ago made public his intention to establish a system of competitive designs for public buildings. Since that time the designs for the new Parliament have been the subject of a series of public competitions. The designs have been submitted by architects of various degrees of eminence, and the results have been of great interest to the public. The designs have been of a high standard of quality, and the results have been of great interest to the public. The designs have been of a high standard of quality, and the results have been of great interest to the public.

The Department was made a board, consisting of Messrs. Mansfield, Saliman, Warrell, Hunt, and Southhouse, Mr. Rowe, and Mr. Vernon (Government architect), has sat on several occasions to advise the Minister as to the positions which should govern the competitions. A code of regulations has, after considerable trouble, been drafted and approved; and the Department is about to advertise the first competition under the new arrangement, for designs for a gaol at Ofraton. As one of the recommendations of the board is that advice that competitors should be limited to those architects who have resided and practised in New Zealand for at least three years. But upon the recommendation the Minister wrote this minute: "This restrictive clause is altogether unnecessary."

necessary. If some competitor from outside the colony proves by his design that he has a better conception of our wants than our local architects, there is no reason why we should voluntarily deprive ourselves of his services; and I see no reason either for any artificial barrier such as is required by the three years' practice. If one man can learn as much in his profession in one year as others do in three years' practice, I know of no reason for punishing him for his possession of unusual ability at the expense in his profession. The clause should be eliminated." A number of the young architects represented to Mr. Bruce Smith that it would be desirable to allow the designs to be judged by the competitors themselves, but he has not seen his way to adopt the suggestion, as he

Under the general conditions, is sufficient guide in determining which design is most likely to suit the requirements of the Government. While no competition will be subject to particular conditions, the set of general conditions has been prepared which will operate in all cases. It is therein provided that all designs shall be drawn on a uniform scale, and they must be accompanied by descriptive reports and estimate of cost. The drawings are to be free from elaboration, and as far as possible, they will be placed before a board of Consulting Architects, and the Government Architect, an officer of the Department for which the special building is intended, and one non-official and non-competing member of the Ministry of Public Works.

to be made by the Department, which will be empowered to call for such independent estimates of costs and for additional information from competitors. This board of referees so recommends the rejection of any of the various designs if not considered of sufficient merit. The final awards will rest with the Minister, and the decision will be published within three weeks after the receipt of the report from the board. Whoever is awarded knows the successful competitor, and the bidder may be called upon to prepare a complete set of contract drawings, and also a full specification, subject to such modification as the Department may determine upon inspection, and in the event of the proposed work being carried out a commission at the rate of 2 per cent.

The Government has decided not to grant to Communist Party members the right to participate in the election of the National Council of the Labor Union. The Government has decided not to grant to Communist Party members the right to participate in the election of the National Council of the Labor Union. The Government has decided not to grant to Communist Party members the right to participate in the election of the National Council of the Labor Union.

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SARS PUNK. Traffic across the Channel was so bad that the Government had to send out one or two small boats to clear the water. The Channel was so crowded with craft, that the Government had to send out one or two small boats to clear the water. The Channel was so crowded with craft, that the Government had to send out one or two small boats to clear the water.

press between a national free-trade office and an overgrown factory heavily by paupered labour. In contrast to the latter, the former is a small, neat, airy, and comfortable building. Lord Carrington said he must openly declare that he had twenty years experience, and intercourse with all sorts and conditions of men in Australia, and that he was not in the least prejudiced, bitter and unyielding hatred of the Irish—who constituted one-third of the entire population—or of any sort of respect or regard to the claims of the Government, or the rights of the Roman Catholics of the German. From the Irish Roman Catholic portion of the community, Lord Carrington went on to testify, he never received anything but respect and esteem, and that his respect was paid to the position he held, and not to hold as *His Majesty's* representative by every Irishman and every Catholic from his Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney, downwards. As far as he had been able to ascertain, he found the tendency of Australia to slavery, downwards, more confident in her strength, it is no way inferior to any other country, and to title the good feeling and friendship which existed between Australia and England.

Punch's cartoon this week represents five young Irishmen at a racing boat, steered by a kangaroo, while the British Consul, in a motor launch, is standing on the bank encouraging them with, "Bravo! boys, swing together." The colonies are represented by the South West, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia. The cartoon is accompanied by some spirited lines headed "Advance Australia! A Song of Sympathy," in which men criticize the cartoon as being technically correct, but as being "no doubt about the genuineness of the motive."

The members of the Colonial Institute were received by Lord and Lady Bramsey at their town house on Friday night last. Among the guests present were Lord and Lady Carrington, John Pope Hennessy, and Baron de Werne, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, together with a number of other distinguished persons, both from the colonies. Some beautiful music was performed during the evening by the band of the Scots

was situated between Green, the present bankrupt, and Rogers and Brimingham, and there was some agreement for the purchase of the property, which consisted of about 180 acres situated at North Shores, near the mouth of the river, between Rogers and Green, and to receive \$2800 and one-fifth interest in the sale of the land. That agreement was not signed until after the 28th of April, and the mortgage first in the sale money agreed, on May 13 of the same year, in consideration of the payment of \$2500, to take a portion of the same money, and to be paid to the mortgagee, who possessed the present applicants and Mr. James Bailey, and to be paid to the agent for Green in arrangement for the money and taking of the title of the estate. On September 1, 1866, a deed was executed by the bankrupt, and transmitted first to Rogers, and later as trustee for the same by Bailey, The matter having been brought before the Court in Green's case, and the Court ordered that the deed of September 1 be paid by Green solely by way of securing for the repayment of moneys then or thereafter to be repaid by the bankrupt, and that and upon the payment by the official assignee of the bankrupt of the moneys then or thereafter to be repaid by the Court, Bailey was to be declared to hold all the estate, right, title, and interest of the bankrupt by the same deed, and transmitted first to Rogers, and later as trustee for the same by Bailey, and that upon payment of \$2500 by Bailey to the official assignee his right, title, interest, and estate in the same should be confirmed. This order is now being appealed against on the ground that the evidence in support of the same is on behalf of the appellants, and the hearing was again adjourned till the following day.

Robert Fleming of South Broken Hill, mine, late of Thackrah's, Mr. L. T. Lloyd, official assignee, Mr. James Bailey, official assignee, Mr. J. C. Macdonald, official assignee, Mr. E. M. Macpherson, official assignee, Mr. John Hubbard Scott, of Gordon-street, Padstow, official assignee, Mr. J. C. Macdonald, official assignee, William Roberts, of Urmann, labourer. Mr. A. Morris, official assignee.

CHARLOTTE'S PETITION.

John McLeod, of Sydney, contractor, v. James Lees, of Newcastle, Glamorgan-ward, petition to be heard April 20.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COURT.  
THURSDAY.  
*(Before his Honour Mr. District Court Judge Stirling.)*

WILKINSON V. THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.  
Mr. Richard Wilson, of the City of London, v. The Commissioners of the Great Western Railway, of London, petition to be heard April 20.

SUPREME COURT.—THURSDAY, APRIL 16.

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## CLERK.

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## UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

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